

Weekly re:Cap

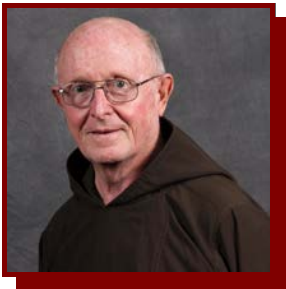


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THE HUMAN THREAD



By Michael Crosby, Corporate Responsibility Office director

Our province belongs to the Seventh Generation Coalition for Responsible Investment, along with the order in Rome and 23 other Midwest religious orders and the Diocese of Green Bay. We, in turn, are part of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York.

One of the key programs of SGI/CRI has been the creation of The Human Thread: Catholics for Clothing with a Conscience (www.humanthreadcampaign.org). Our province gave the initial monies for its creation and has been an ongoing financial

supporter, having given over \$20,000 these past years.

We're in the process of inaugurating a postcard campaign for The Human Thread and trying to spread as wide a net as possible.

Between now and Black Friday (Nov. 25), postcards are being sent to the CEOs of Macy's and Kohl's in support of a living wage at the sites where our clothes are made. We ask for your involvement. Capuchin Communications is sending the postcards to all friars of the province to facilitate participation.

Rationale: When we visit a supermarket, we can purchase organic and fair trade items. When we visit an auto dealer, we can buy a hybrid. Some chains build their identity and customer base by offering those options. We know that the hybrid and the organic, fair trade items may cost us a bit more, but we are willing to pay for them for a broader benefit.

Except for a few niche clothing items sold in a few boutiques, as of yet, no major chain sells clothing sourced in other countries that is fair trade. But we know that most of it comes from places we read on our labels: Bangladesh, China, India, Vietnam, Honduras, Mexico. Pope Francis has called the wages paid those workers: "slave labor."

Given the woeful wages in garment-producing countries, did the workers who made my clothing receive a wage that will support them and their families? Knowing that the garment industry is the second biggest user of water and the consequent immense harm that the garment industry does to the environment, we also ask what care and provision was made for the care of creation in the production of this garment?



Average hourly wage for garment workers:

Bangladesh: 24¢

Cambodia: 45¢

Pakistan: 52¢

Vietnam: 53¢

China \$1.26



**"Living on 38 euros (\$50) a month: that was the pay of these people who died. That is called slave labor."
~Pope Francis**

For years members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility have engaged retailers, including Macy's and Kohl's on supply chain issues. Our province has met twice-yearly with Kohl's. However they have rejected calls to address wages at the sites where our clothes are made.

After the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, Jerry Davis of the Ross School of Business wrote a letter to *The New York Times*. In it he said that change never comes from investor/shareholder actions without an accompanying consumer effort. This is our effort to make such a difference. We've shared this campaign with him; he is very supportive.

If you agree with us, we'd ask you to sign, stamp, and mail a postcard to Macy's and to Kohl's telling them as much. Both of these companies have good track records in various areas; but, if they would support this effort, things would be so much better. We are telling them: If they will lead, we will buy.

If you want to ask others, friends or members of any of your organizations, to get involved, please email our campaign manager at campaignmanager@humanthreadcampaign.org, indicating your postal address and how many postcards you need. They will be sent by return mail.

We saw you at the CCS staff day!



The House of Peace and St. Ben's Ministries are now under the umbrella "Capuchin Community Services.(CCS)" Staff members from both of these Milwaukee ministries gathered last week for a day-long inservice at the St. Francis Capuchin Center

CCS provides a wide variety of services to address the physical and spiritual needs of the marginalized population of the greater Milwaukee area. *Weekly re:Cap* salutes our partners-in-ministry and friars who daily exemplify our mission statement

"Transforming the world through reverence"



St. Clare Community: An international house of studies



Hector Bueno

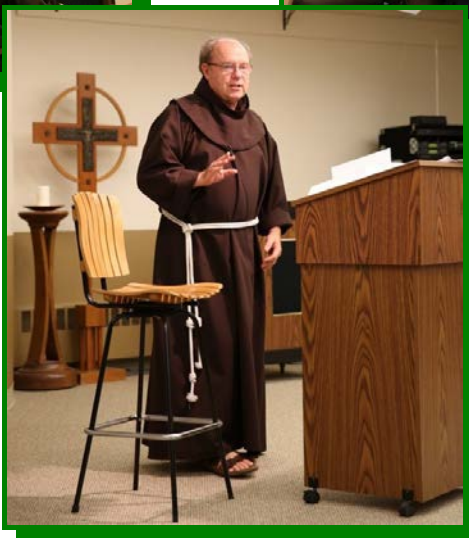
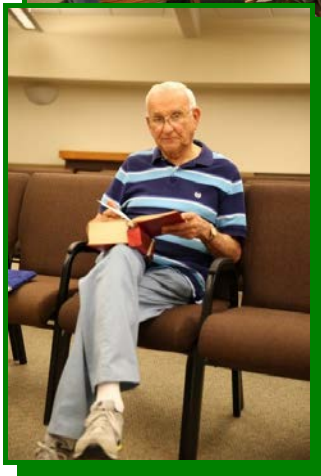
Over the past three years our province has had the pleasure of hosting our brother, Hector Bueno (hect_cap@yahoo.com) from the Province of Peru at Saint Clare Community in Chicago while he pursued a master of arts in theology at Catholic Theological Union. In July Hector returned to his home province to attend the chapter and then be assigned to teach at their own provincial house of studies. Congratulations and many blessings on this new journey in your life Hector. You will certainly be missed at Saint Clare, and throughout the province!



Anish Palliyil (left) with Worku Gebre

But we are blessed to be able to continue to offer Saint Clare's and the excellent educational opportunities in Chicago to friars from around the world. Recently, two friars have joined us at Saint Clare to begin studies. On August 19, we welcomed Anish Cleetus Palliyil (celanocap@yahoo.com) from the Province of Saint Francis in Kerala, India. Anish will begin studies for the doctor of ministry in intercultural ministries at Catholic Theological Union. Then on August 24, Worku Yohannes Gebre (workyoha@yahoo.com) arrived from Addis Ababa and the Custody of Ethiopia. He will begin studies at DePaul University, for a masters in education. *Welcome, brothers!*

We saw you at the provincial retreat with Bill Short, OFM





Leo Petrimoulx's brother recently underwent surgery to insert stents to address heart problems.

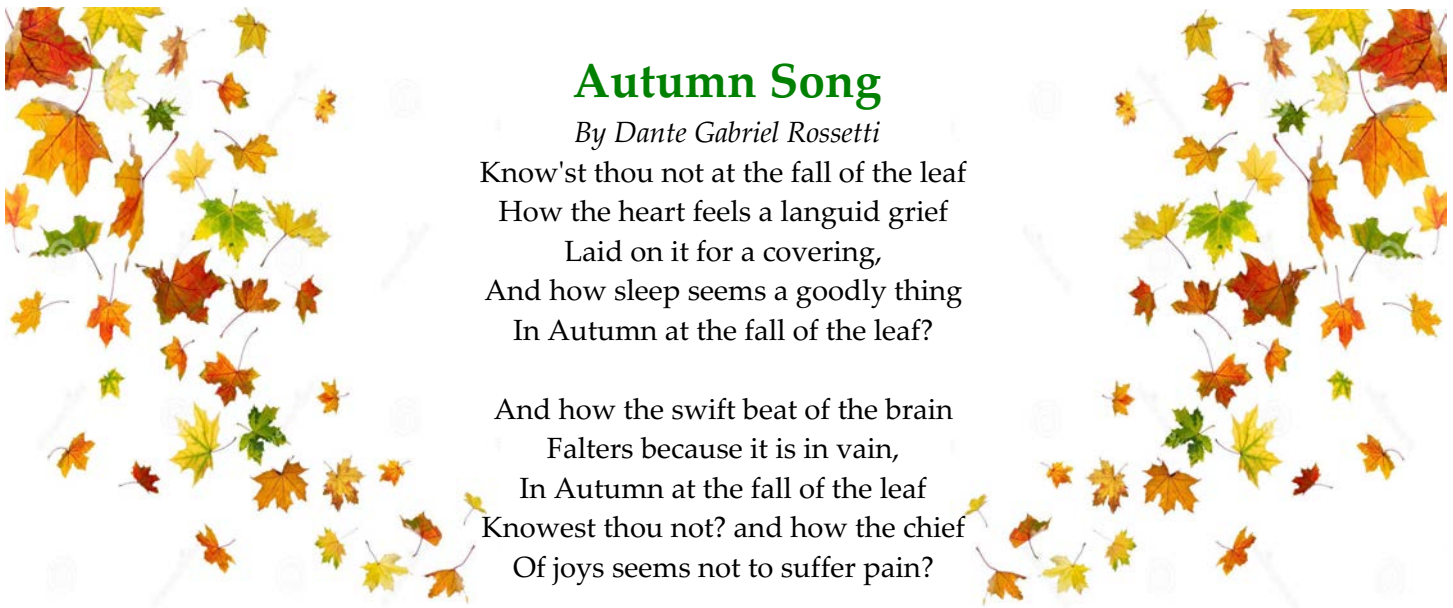
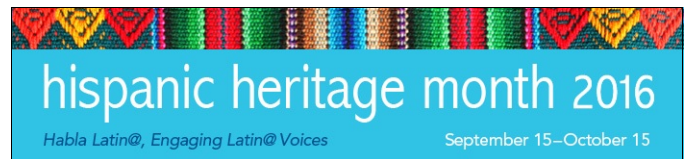
I truly appreciate all of your messages and prayers, as well as offers to help. It all means a great deal to me.
— Bob Smith

Thanks to all those who prayed for mom. She has recovered and is doing splendidly. Better than she has been in almost a year. — Matthew Tiritilli

Pam Kania, the pastoral assistant of St. Labre and myself want to thank all those who prayed and sent emails and cards after the recent tragic car accident which resulted in the painful loss of the life of Ken Kania, Pam's husband. My nephew, who was left with serious bruising from the seat belts as well as a broken arm is recovering after finally arriving in Washington to begin college. The prayers are helping our healing.
— Larry Webber

September

- 23 OPCC Video Conference
- 24 **Patrick McSherry (B)**
Gary Wegner (B)
- 25 **Clint Evrard (B)**
- 27 **Wellness Video Conference**
Building & Maint. Video Conference
Robert Wheelock (B)
- 29 **TL Michael Auman (N)**
Michael Zeulke (N)
Michael, Archangel (F)
- 30 **SLS Ministry Council, Mt. Calvary WI**



Autumn Song

By Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Know'st thou not at the fall of the leaf
How the heart feels a languid grief
Laid on it for a covering,
And how sleep seems a goodly thing
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf?

And how the swift beat of the brain
Falters because it is in vain,
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf
Knowest thou not? and how the chief
Of joys seems not to suffer pain?

Know'st thou not at the fall of the leaf
How the soul feels like a dried sheaf
Bound up at length for harvesting,
And how death seems a comely thing
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf?